Year	Export Targets (%)	Export Performance (%)
1997-98	18	4.6
1998-99	20	3.7*

* Provisional

(c) According to the provisional data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the export growth rate during the first half i.e. April—September, 1999-2000 is 7.39% (in dollar terms)

(d) a number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation an implificaion of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

New Exim Policy

15. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new Exim Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the new Exim policy and how far it would help to improve the export and import of the country;

(c) which country is the highest importer of our goods;

(d) the steps taken to improve our exports to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Government had notified certain amendments to the Exim Policy, 1997—2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 1999) on 31.3.99.

(b) and (d) The details are contained in the revised document, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The objectives of the EXIM Policy are as under:—

(i) To accelerate the country's transition to a globally oriented vibrant economy with a view to derive maximum benefits from expanding global market opportunities.

(ii) To stimulate sustained economic growth by providing access to essential raw materials, intermediates, components, consumables and capital goods required for augmenting production.

(iii) To enhance the technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services, thereby improving their competitive strength while generating new employment opportunities, and to encourage the attainment of internationally accepted standards of quality.

(iv) To provide consumers with good quality products at reasonable prices.

The Policy initiatives taken this year through the EXIM Policy have been generally welcomed by the Trade & Industry.

(c) United States of America is highest importer of Indian goods.

Targets for Industrial Growth

16. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for the industrial growth during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) how far these have been achieved;

(c) what has been the preference of industrial sector during the first half of 1999-2000;

(d) the details of steps taken to accelerate industrial growth; and

(e) what has been the contribution of the consumer goods industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission has fixed an average 8.2% growth rate target for the Ninth Plan. According to figures released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) the growth rate during 1997-98, 1998-99 and April—September 1999-2000 are 6.6%, 4.0% and 6.4% respectively.